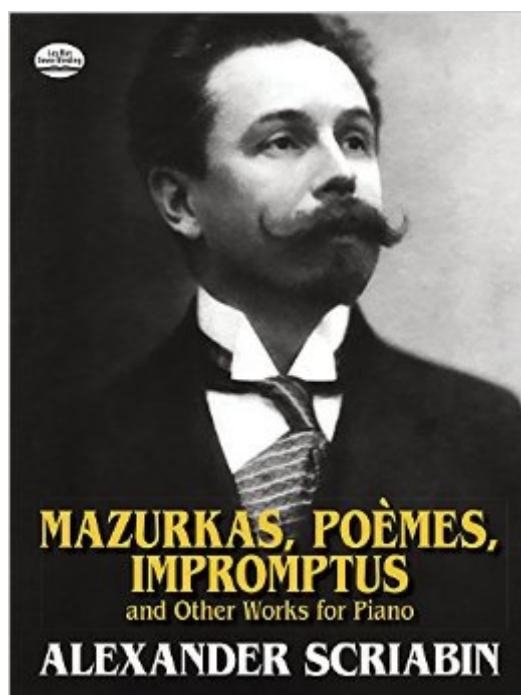


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Mazurkas, Poemes, Impromptus And Other Pieces For Piano (Dover Music For Piano)



Synopsis

This unique volume of Alexander Scriabin's piano music combines all of the Russian composer's widely admired Poèmes, which exude the richness and complexity of his later style, with virtually all of the earlier, more Chopinesque Mazurkas and all eight Impromptus. The complete collection contains 75 piano works of varying length and difficulty, including a number of compositions with unique titles. In style, they represent the full span of Scriabin's musical life, from his early romanticism to the bold chromaticism, mysticism, and ecstatic fervor of his mature period. In technique, these compositions embody Scriabin's distinctive keyboard invention, vividly displaying his use of chords built on unusual intervals, unconventional rhythmic groupings, use of the trill for coloristic effect, and rich, luxuriant sonority. Pianists will find in these highly original works, reprinted here from authoritative Russian editions, piano music that intimately reveals one of the most distinctive musical personalities of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This collection of mostly unrelated works by Alexander Nicolayavich Scriaban (1872-1915) is most undoubtedly the crown jewel of Twentieth-Century piano music; yet it is almost totally overlooked historically as well as musically. It represents not his ordered compositions, as do his preludes and etudes, but rather his sporadic, sometimes psychotic thoughts; it is a veritable musical diary of the very bizarre and mystical life of the great Russian enigma. It belongs on the shelf of any serious

music student, especially those of Russian music, for in this myriad of masterworks are the very core of the underappreciated and often entirely overlooked Alexander N. Scriabin.

Dover publishes complete works of many composers, and they did pianists a huge favor by compiling the works of Scriabin into several volumes of music. Scriabin, a "bridge" composer between the 19th and 20th Century, composed romantic yet modernistic works sometimes reminiscent of Chopin. His later work was far more dense and individualistic. Unfortunately, he died in his 40's, but, like the short-lived Schubert, he left a considerable volume of works for the piano. The other Dover volumes are the Sonatas and the Preludes and Etudes. Logically, they put other minor works (nocturnes, dances, etc) into this volume. If you are a skilled pianist, try the Op. 28 Fantasie. This work, sadly, is rarely recorded but is one of the most incredibly gorgeous things ever written for piano. The only other copy of this I own is in a Hungarian edition not available in the US, so rejoice if you play piano. Dover prints music that is easy to read and the editing is usually blameless. This book is no exception. Highly recommended for serious piano students.

What the above review failed to mention is that the "Mazurkas, Poems, and Impromptues" book contains all of Scriabin's piano music excepting that which is contained in the "Preludes and Etudes" and the "Piano Sonata's" books. All three of these books are published by Dover and are not altered to death by rotten editors. Comprehensive editions of composer's works are very valuable and often a huge oversight in the unusually choppy realm of sheet music. The book is also made as good as paperbacks get.

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